

REMARKS

Claims 39, 41, 42 and 45 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention. The applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **February 25, 2004**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claim 39 is rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Higashitsutsumi (U.S. Patent No. 5,144,445).

The present invention is a digital camera in which a thumbnail image may be generated and stored based upon an original captured image. This thumbnail image is generated based upon storing every eighth line of the original image. The thumbnail image is stored to memory during a horizontal blanking period of the original captured image.

Higashitsutsumi describes an image pickup apparatus in which the number of pixels of the image pickup device is smaller than the display. As indicated in column 7, lines 22-26 of Higashitsutsumi, "The horizontal transfer clock generator 111H transfers the information charges which have been supplied from the storing portion 110S in the period of 1/2 of the horizontal scanning period 1H." Further, as indicated in column 7, lines 30-33 of Higashitsutsumi, "The video signal Y is blanked by a vertical blanking signal VBL and a horizontal blanking signal HBL so as to eliminate noise in the period other than the displaying period."

According to the present invention, when first image data having a first resolution is outputted from an imaging device, a generator generates second image data having a second resolution which is lower than the first resolution based on the first image data. A writer intermittently writes to a first memory the first image data outputted from the imaging device, and writes the second image data generated by the generator to the first memory at intervals of writing of the first image data. Herein, the imaging device outputs the first image data in a raster scan manner, and the writer writes the second image data to the first memory during a horizontal blanking period of the first image data.

Writing the second image data to the first memory during the horizontal blanking period of the first image data makes it possible to shorten a time period necessary for storing the first image data and the second image data to the first memory, that is, to shorten a shutter interval.

In contrast, Higashitsutsumi discloses an image pickup device outputting a video signal having a resolution which is a quarter of that of a reproducing screen. However, Higashitsutsumi fails to disclose or remotely suggest anything about writing high resolution image data to a memory and writing low resolution image data to the memory during a horizontal blanking period of the high resolution image data. Accordingly, it is not possible to anticipate the present invention by Higashitsutsumi, and therefore, the present invention is patentable.

Therefore, claim 39 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

“A digital camera, comprising: an imaging device for imaging a subject and outputting first image data having a first resolution; a generator for generating second image data having a second resolution which is lower than the first resolution based

on the first image data outputted from said imaging device; and a writer for intermittently writing to a first memory the first image data outputted from said imaging device, and writing the second image data generated by said generator to said first memory at intervals of writing of the first image data, wherein said imaging device outputs the first image data in a raster scan manner, and said writer writes the second image data to said first memory during a horizontal blanking period of the first image data." (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 39 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Higashitsutsumi (U.S. Patent No. 5,144,445) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 39, 41, 42 and 45, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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